



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## "FIRST AID" TO JUSTICE

for one year would have cost the state, at the average per capita expense, the additional sum of \$1,152,555.80.

A. W. BUTLER, Secretary State Board of Charities, Indianapolis.

**Law Relating to Social Vice in Kansas.**—A stringent bill became law in Kansas March 30, 1913 (H. B. 40) which makes it a felony—1 to 5 years—at hard labor to entice or detain any female for prostitution, concubinage, or fornication. It makes the keeper of any house for immoral purposes equally guilty, and makes owner of such premises, after notice, guilty also. It voids the lease of any tenant who uses premises for such purpose, authorizes injunction in the name of the state to vacate place of prostitution, and makes it a misdemeanor to solicit any male person to enter such place.

J. C. RUPPENTHAL, Judge 23rd District, Russell, Kans.

**"First Aid" to Justice.**—A splendid illustration of what can be accomplished through the frank, free, sympathetic co-operation of a group of citizens, with judges, magistrates, probation officers, public officials and religious and charitable agencies, working harmoniously together, actuated by a common purpose, and with no private end to serve, is afforded in the work of the Committee on Criminal Courts of the Charity Organization Society of New York, which has just completed a second year of its activity.

The year has been one of definite accomplishment, of strengthening of relations, of a broader appreciation of the newer ideals of social justice, of a changed point of view on the part of the courts, it is not too much to say—of the dawn of a new era in the treatment of the minor offender.

It has seen the practical abolition of the system of fining women of the street, that ancient evil, preposterous in its inner significance, but an evil that still prevails in nearly all other American cities; the year has seen the beginning of a proper system of identification of convicted offenders, thus making possible their rational treatment by the separation of the first offender from the chronic "rounder"; through this step the door has been opened to a more humane treatment of inebriates and a more intelligent grappling with the problem of vagrancy; ultimately it will make possible the treatment of each offender with relation to what will restore him to his position as a useful member of society or keep him as such; not punishment, but rehabilitation.

The year has seen the development of the work in the Children's Courts by leaps and bounds. In the words of Justice Hoyt of that court: "The last eight months' advance has been far greater than any similar advance in any previous eight years." A new children's court building centrally located in a quiet neighborhood has been assured, and is now being constructed from plans that will make it a model for all other cities: For the first time, the Children's Courts have been equipped with a paid staff of probation officers devoting their whole time to the work; starting at the beginning of the year with 20 officers, we have just begun to learn how far short of real probation work the work of the court has hitherto been, notwithstanding the deep interest of the judges and the devoted service of the small group of volunteer workers attached to the court; with 20 probation officers as a nucleus, a comprehensive plan of probation work has

## "FIRST AID" TO JUSTICE

been outlined as a result of special expert study of the needs of the court; and the 20 probation officers provided for the first year have been increased to 40 for the second year, a very great increase but a number still far from adequate to meet the real needs.

More important than new building or permanent and competent probation officers has been the great change that has taken place in the court itself. For the first time in the history of the city there have been judges assigned to the Children's Court for substantial periods of time and with continuity of service. In the Manhattan court there have been but two different judges throughout the year and each one of these has presided for three months at a time.

The result has been just what was anticipated, the judges have become experts; the needs of the courts have been studied; the defects of the system have been laid bare and remedies proposed; broad far-reaching plans for co-operation have been developed and are about to be carried into effect—in a word the Children's Courts are taking their rightful place in the city's social life.

The progress of the year has been by no means limited to the Juvenile Courts. Of vital consequence to the community has been the development of the first thoughtful and comprehensive programme yet proposed for the intelligent treatment of the prostitute, who constitutes so large a part of the women arraigned in our courts; the year has seen not only the unfolding of this plan, but the first step taken towards its carrying out.

Important legislation has been secured, strengthening the operation of the Domestic Relations Courts and at the same time administrative changes have been carried into effect bringing about a wider and more effective use of the court by social agencies.

The Inferior Courts Act has been strengthened through amendment and objectionable legislation has been defeated. The old notorious Essex Market Court building, so long a disgrace to the city, and so often condemned by successive Grand Juries and Boards of Health, is a thing of the past. In its place is to be erected a new building which is expected to prove a model for all future Magistrate's Courts. A well-chosen site for this building has been selected and is now in process of being acquired.

Other buildings heretofore found inadequate are being radically altered and much needed additional space secured.

The needs of the city have been carefully studied and the establishment of an additional Magistrate's Court has been urged upon the city authorities. The committee's work has been strengthened by the formation of a similar committee in Brooklyn, with similar aims and purposes.

Such is but a bare outline of the year's work in this field; a fuller account of these activities will be found set forth in the Annual Report published by the Committee. In all of these activities the Committee has played a vitally important part. It has furnished not only the stimulating energy, but has been as well the effective agency, in many cases carrying out the changes proposed; it has furnished at times the sinews of war; and has constantly placed at the disposal of the judges and other officials expert service of various kinds. No realization can be had from this bare summary of the infinite amount of detailed work that has been involved; the careful research, the constant conference, the establishment of diplo-

## UDINOT ON CONDITIONAL CONVICTIONS

matic and tactful relationships, the subordination of private opinion, the willingness to serve without thought of credit or public recognition.

LAWRENCE VEILLER,

Secretary Committee on Criminal Courts of the Charity Organization Society, New York.

**New Probation Law in Vermont.**—The Vermont Commission on Probation has recently secured the enactment of an act to codify and amend the laws of that state relating to probation. It contains the radical provision that probation officers, instead of being appointed, as hitherto, by judges, shall hereafter be appointed by the State Probation Commission. According to the terms of the law, the first appointments were required to be made on March 1, 1913, and similar appointments shall be made bi-ennially hereafter. Each county has its own officer who serves during the pleasure of the State Commission. In case of need, special additional officers may also be appointed. The amount of compensation of the probation officers shall be determined by the county courts. The State Commission shall also "make all needful rules and regulations for the efficient administration of the statutes relating to probation; shall provide for such co-operation of probation officers and others connected with the administration of probation laws as in their judgment will best promote the system of probation, and to that end may hold such meetings for conference and instruction as they deem necessary; and shall prepare the forms of records, blanks and reports, and procure the necessary record books, blanks and stationery for the use of probation officers."

Section 14 of the new law authorizes probation officers, upon direction of the court, to expend for the temporary support and traveling expenses of the probationers such reasonable sums as the court may deem expedient. The amounts so authorized to be expended shall be entered on the docket of the clerk or records of the judge or justice and made a part of the record of such cause.

This new act, which was approved on January 16th, is original in many of its features. The law, together with a new act relating to the treatment of persons convicted of intoxication and a new chancery juvenile court law, is published in a pamphlet issued by the State Commission on Probation. The law is quoted in full above.—[Ed.] A. W. T.

**Oudinot on Conditional Convictions.**—Twenty years of experience with conditional conviction under the *loi Bérenger* (of March 26, 1891), in Frankreich, may be studied in a report by Dr. Marcel Oudinot. The essential elements of the law are: provisional release; such release to be final if the person convicted does not become an offender again within five years. Recidivism is punished with severity. Pardon is not a feature of the law. The use of the short term in prison is avoided, all admitting that it is an evil.

It is shown that the courts have made increasing use of the law as its effects are better known. In 1892, out of 1,000 permissible cases only 127 were treated under this law; while in 1907 the rate per 1,000 was 328. Recidivism has decreased; this being due to some extent to this legal innovation; and first offenses have not increased. Some abuses require correction and the author recommends: that this measure should not be employed